

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03541 180826Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 CU-04 NEA-10 EUR-25 IO-14 DRC-01

/164 W

----- 127603

R 180655Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2768

INFO CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3541

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: BIEN HOA 107

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED 15 MAR 74 FM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
ACTION SAIGON INFO CAN THO DANANG NHA TRANG REPEATED TO YOU
FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 107

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, VS

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATIONS ON CAI LAY SCHOOL INCIDENT

1. ORGANIZED REACTION TO COMMUNIST SHELLING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AT
CAI LAY IS TAKING DIFFERENT FORMS IN MR 3. IN TAY NINH AND PHUOC
TUY, STUDENTS IN ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS OBSERVED ONE
MINUTE SILENCE MORNING MARCH 15 IN MEMORY SLAIN CHILDREN. IN BOTH
PROVINCES ANTI-COMMUNIST BANNERS AND POSTERS PREPARED BY VIS
WERE DISPLAYED IN EACH CLASSROOM BUT NO STREET DEMONSTRATIONS
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 03541 180826Z

WERE REPORTED.

2. IN PHUOC LONG, STUDENTS FROM 32 DIFFERENT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSEMBLED AT NHAT LINH HIGH SCHOOL IN SONG BE AND PRESENTED PETITION CONDEMNING COMMUNISTS TO TWO INDODEL ICCS MEMBERS ASSIGNED AT AN LOC WHO PRESUMABLY WERE IN SONG BE ON BUSINESS. (THEY AFTERWARDS ACCOMPANIED PROVINCE CHIEF BY HELICOPTER ALONG QL 14 TO MR 2 BORDER). TWO INDONESIANS THEN DONATED BLOOD AT THE SONG BE HEALTH SERVICE FOR WOUNDED CHILDREN AT CAI LAY.

3. STREET DEMONSTRATIONS BY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TOOK PLACE IN LONG KHANH AND BIEN HOA. LATTER ESPECIALLY INTERESTING. STARTING AT EARLY HOUR MARCH 15 STUDENTS FROM 5TH GRADE UP THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL WERE OBSERVED IN ORDERLY GROUPS, EACH REPRESENTING A DIFFERENT SCHOOL, PARADING ALONG MAIN STREETS OF BIEN HOA. BANNERS CONDEMNING THE COMMUNIST "ATROCITY" AT CAI LAY WERE IN PROMINENT DISPLAY. STUDENTS MARCHED TO ICCS REGION V HEADQUARTERS AND WERE RECEIVED BY ALL FOUR ICCS DELS. A STUDENT SPOKESMAN ADDRESSED THEM IN VIETNAMESE WITH AN OFFICER (1ST LT ASSIGNED TO TPJMC) PROVIDING INTERPRETATION IN ENGLISH. MAIN POINTS COVERED BY STUDENT, READING FROM PREPARED STATEMENT, WERE: (A) ICCS SHOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE TO STOP COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF CEASE-FIRE; (B) GVN MUST RAISE THE CAI LAY VIOLATION IN PARIS; (C) PUBLIC OPINION WORLD-WIDE MUST BE BROUGHT TO BEAR AGAINST COMMUNIST ATROCITIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM; (D) PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIET-NAM MUST GIVE ARVNAF FULL SUPPORT IN EFFORT TO CONTAIN COMMUNISM. AT CONCLUSION OF ORAL PRESENTATION, PETITION FROM WHICH STUDENT HAD BEEN READING WAS HANDED TO IRANDEL CHIEF WHO IS REGION V CHAIRMAN THIS WEEK. EACH ICCS DEL HEAD WAS THEN ASKED FOR VIEWS ON CAI LAY INCIDENT. IRANDEL CHIEF REPLIED THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY CALL MEETING OF ICCS REGION V MEMBERS TO DISCUSS AND STUDY STUDENTS' PETITION BEFORE FORWARDING IT TO ICCS HEADQUARTERS, SAIGON. HUNGDEL AND POLDEL CHIEFS DECLINED COMMENT AND WERE THEN ASKED WHY THEY HAD REFUSED TO INVESTIGATE CAI LAY INCIDENT. THIS ALSO EVOKED A "NO COMMENT." INDODEL CHIEF CONDEMNED VIOLENCE BY ANYONE, ESPECIALLY WHEN DIRECTED AGAINST CHILDREN.

4. A BIEN HOA HIGH SCHOOL PROFESSOR THEN SPOKE OF TRAGEDY AND ASKED FOR BLOOD DONATIONS FOR SERIOUSLY WOUNDED SCHOOL CHILDREN. ICCS DELS CONSULTED, THEN IRANDEL CHIEF GAVE COLLECTIVE ANSWER TO EFFECT THAT ALL DELS WOULD BE GLAD TO DONATE BLOOD BUT THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 03541 180826Z

ICCS DOCTOR WOULD TAKE THE DONATIONS. HOWEVER, INDODEL CHIEF (COL DJOKO) SEPARATED HIMSELF FROM OTHER DELS AND TOLD PROFESSOR HE WOULD DONATE BLOOD THEN AND THERE. THREE HOSPITAL CORPSMEN NOT ONLY CAME FORWARD, BUT THEY HAD NECESSARY EQUIPMENT WITH THEM* AT THIS POINT, THE VIETNAMESE PRINCIPAL OF BIEN HOA HIGH SCHOOL SPOKE UP SAYING ASSEMBLAGE WAS ADJOURNED AND STUDENTS SHOULD LEAVE BECAUSE INDODEL CHIEF WAS PREPARING TO DONATE BLOOD. STUDENTS GREETED THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WITH APPLAUSE.

5. INDODEL CHIEF LATER INFORMED US THAT HE DID, IN FACT, DONATE BLOOD AT THE TIME INSIDE HIS QUARTERS. DJOKO SAID CAMERAMEN PRESENT WANTED TO PHOTOGRAPH HIM DONATING BLOOD BUT HE DECLINED BECAUSE "I DON'T LIKE PUBLICITY." HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR ALL OTHER INDODEL MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE BLOOD ON MARCH 14.

PETERS UNQUOTE

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